fishing sector has been received. However the same can be considered, as and when received.

Steps taken to arrest the declining marine shrimp resources

6651. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to arrest the trend of declining marine shrimp resources by reducing the number of deep sea trawlers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any optimum number has been fixed for annual operation of the coast of Visakhapatnam; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) The data on the landing of shrimp resources is given below:

'000 tonnes

Year	Penaeid shrimp	Non-Penaeid shrimp	Total
1988	140	87	227
1989	138	90	228
1990	150	103	253
1991	173	115	288
1992	187	95	282

This data indicates that there is no declining trend in the total shrimp landings in India. However, in order to reduce the pressure on the already heavily exploited shrimp resources, introduction of new shrimp trawlers on the east Coast is not allowed. Deep sea fishing vessels intoduced under joint ventures, leasing and test fishing are also not permitted to operate in the shrimping grounds of North East Coast. Government also encourages diversified fishing by modification of existing trawlers in order to reduce the pressure on shrimp resources on the East coast and to improve the bio-economics status of this fishery.

(c) and (d) No Sir However, no increase in the present number of trawlers is permitted.

Prices of Sort Drinks

6652. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no statutory control on the prices of soft drinks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures Government propose to take to control the prices of soft drinks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c): There is no statutory control on the prices of soft drinks. However, it is expected that the availability of various brands and market competition will keep a check on the prices of soft drinks.

Promotion of Food Processing Industries in States

6653. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN:
SHRI MISA R. GANESAN:
SHRI J.S. RAJU:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what action is being taken by Government to promote Food Processing industries in various States:

(b) whether loans or subsidies would be given for processing agencies;

(c) which State tops the list in processing industries; and

(d) what is the proposed allotment of finance to Tamil Nadu in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) (a) and (b) Besides delicensing almost all food processing industries and providing fiscal concessions for several food products, machinery for processing etc., the Ministry